THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMEN OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) As per the present policy on disposal of confiscated revolvers/pistols, non-prohibited bore weapons are given to the Officers of the Customs department on loan, according to need, subject to the condition that on retirement/superannuation these weapons are returned to the Department. Surplus weapons of non-prohibited bore, according to the present policy, are being sold to Members of Parliament.

Seizure of Brown Sugar in Bombay

1679. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Indian Express (Madras) of 8th October, 1988 that brown sugar worth Rs. 58.5 crores was seized in Bombay from 5 persons travelling on fake South Korean Passport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per details of the case reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau, on 7.10.1988, the officers of the Bombay Police attached to the Airport Security at Sahar airport intercepted five passengers bound for Geneva and on examination of their checked-in baggages, brown sugar weighing 58.5 kgs. was recovered and seized.

On further investigation, it was found that the South Korean passports in their possession were fake. Two of the persons were found to be Afghan nationals and the third, an Afghan refugee from Delhi. The other two were Indian and Tibetan national from Mizoram.

No precise value of the drugs seized can be determined as this is dependent upon various factors like purity of the drug, places of origin and sale, local demand and supply, etc.

All the five persons have been arrested for appropriate action under the law.

Crime Data Bank

1680. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Crime Data Bank in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) by when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau was set up in New Delhi in 1986.

(d) An amount of Rs. 710.62 lakhs has been provided in the budget for the year 1988-89.

Arms surrender in Darjeeling in terms of recent Accord

1681. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of arms surrendered by the members of the GNLF and CPI(M) separately in Darjeeling so far in terms of the recent Accord;

(b) whether the process of surrender of arms is now complete; and

(c) what other steps have so far been taken to implement the Accord?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As envisaged in the agreement, the West Bengal State Legislature has already passed the Hill Council Bill and the elections to the Council are expected to be held on 13th December, 1988. As per information furnished by the State Government, all TADA cases and other criminal cases have been reviewed and submitted to the concerned Courts. Departmental actions initiated against the employees in the context of the agitation have been dropped.

Adjudication proceedings against M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.

1682. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate of Anti-Evasion issued show cause notices amounting to Rs. 803 crore on M/s. I.T.C. Ltd., after search and seizure operations carried out on 17th February, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that I.T.C. petition in this conection was rejected by the Calcutta High Court on 12th October, 1988; and

(c) if so, when the adjudication proceedings were started and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The adjudication proceedings started on the date of issue of the show cause notice itself i.e. on 27.3.1987. The company completed inspection of document etc. by December, 1987. The reply to the show cause notice was received from the company by the Adjudication Authority on 2.3.88. Thereafter presonal hearings started with effect from 23.5.88 and have since been continuing practically on a day-to-day basis. The Adjudicating Authority is making all possible efforts to adjudicate the case expeditiously.

Show Cause Notices pending against M/s. I.T.C. Limited

1683. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of show cause notices pending before the various jurisdiction collectorates against M/s. I.T.C. Limited and the amount involved therein; and

(b) what is the present position regarding adjudication/demand notices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Show Cause Notices issued to M/s. I.T.C. Limited by the Central Excise Collector, Patna

1684. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Excise and Customs had, in a telex message on 8th Dec-